

111TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 1917

To establish the Centennial Historic District in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania,
and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APRIL 2, 2009

Mr. FATTAH introduced the following bill; which was referred to the
Committee on Natural Resources

A BILL

To establish the Centennial Historic District in Philadelphia,
Pennsylvania, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Centennial Historic
5 District Authorization Act of 2009”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 Congress finds the following:

8 (1) The Centennial Historic District in the
9 Commonwealth of Pennsylvania was the site of an

1 international exhibition to celebrate the Centennial
2 of the United States in 1876.

3 (2) On March 3, 1871, an Act of Congress cre-
4 ated the United States Centennial Commission and
5 provided that an Exhibition of American and foreign
6 arts, products, and manufactures be held in Phila-
7 delphia in 1876.

8 (3) Held only 11 years after the end of the Civil
9 War, the Centennial Exhibition was a both a na-
10 tional celebration of unity and a recognition by the
11 world community that the United States was emerg-
12 ing as the leading nation in the world.

13 (4) The Centennial Exhibition displayed 60,000
14 exhibits from more than 28 countries around the
15 world in 240 buildings and hosted nearly 10 million
16 visitors, estimated to be nearly 25 percent of the
17 population of the United States at the time. It was
18 the first World's Fair to be held in the United
19 States.

20 (5) The Exhibition became the center of cul-
21 tural, technological, economic and geopolitical devel-
22 opment in the United States by demonstrating
23 groundbreaking innovations, including root beer, the
24 telephone, kindergarten, the typewriter, the phono-
25 graph, and the monorail.

1 (6) More than 100 American companies who
2 participated in the Centennial Exhibition are still in
3 business today, including Bausch and Lomb, John
4 Deere, Campbell's, Heinz, and Wyeth.

5 (7) The Centennial Historic District is located
6 in Fairmount Park, which is listed on the National
7 Register of Historic Places.

8 (8) Memorial Hall, a centerpiece of the Centen-
9 nial celebration, is a National Historic Landmark
10 and is being renovated to join other cultural institu-
11 tions as an anchor for the Centennial Historic Dis-
12 trict.

13 (9) The Centennial Historic District will com-
14 memorate the historic significance of the Centennial
15 celebration in our Nation's history.

16 **SEC. 3. DEFINITIONS.**

17 In this Act:

18 (1) HISTORIC DISTRICT.—The term “historic
19 district” means the Centennial Historic District es-
20 tablished by section 4.

21 (2) MANAGEMENT PLAN.—The term “manage-
22 ment plan” means the management plan described
23 in section 5(b).

24 (3) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary”
25 means—

1 (A) the Secretary of the Interior; or

2 (B) the head of any Federal agency to
3 which funds are appropriated to carry out this
4 Act.

5 **SEC. 4. CENTENNIAL HISTORIC DISTRICT.**

6 (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is established the Cen-
7 tennial Historic District in the city of Philadelphia, Penn-
8 sylvania.

9 (b) BOUNDARIES.—The boundaries of the historic
10 district shall be as depicted on the map titled “Fairmount
11 Park’s Proposed Centennial Authorization Boundary”,
12 numbered A, and dated December 2007. The map shall
13 be on file and available for public inspection in the appro-
14 priate offices of the National Park Service.

15 **SEC. 5. ADMINISTRATION OF CENTENNIAL HISTORIC DIS-**
16 **TRICT.**

17 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may make grants
18 to, and enter into cooperative agreements with, any State
19 or local government agencies, any nonprofit entities des-
20 ignated by the Secretary to operate the historic district,
21 or any leaseholders for—

22 (1) the preparation of the management plan;
23 and

24 (2) the implementation of projects approved by
25 the Secretary under the management plan.

1 (b) MANAGEMENT PLAN.—

2 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall prepare
3 a plan for the development of historic, architectural,
4 natural, cultural, recreational, and interpretive re-
5 sources within the historic district.

6 (2) REQUIREMENTS.—The management plan
7 shall include—

8 (A) an evaluation of—

9 (i) the condition of historic and archi-
10 tectural resources in the historic district;
11 and

12 (ii) the environmental conditions in
13 the historic district; and

14 (B) recommendations for—

15 (i) rehabilitating, reconstructing, and
16 adaptively reusing the historic and archi-
17 tectural resources evaluated under sub-
18 paragraph (A)(i);

19 (ii) preserving viewsheds, focal points,
20 and streetscapes in the historic district;

21 (iii) establishing gateways to the his-
22 toric district;

23 (iv) establishing and maintaining
24 parks and public spaces in the historic dis-
25 trict;

1 (v) developing public parking areas in
2 the historic district;

3 (vi) improving pedestrian and vehic-
4 ular circulation in the historic district; and

5 (vii) improving security in the historic
6 district.

7 (3) RESTORATION, MAINTENANCE, AND INTER-
8 PRETATION.—

9 (A) COOPERATIVE AGREEMENTS.—For
10 projects recommended in the management plan,
11 the Secretary may enter into cooperative agree-
12 ments with the city of Philadelphia, agents of
13 the city, and designated partners to—

14 (i) provide technical assistance with
15 respect to the preservation and interpreta-
16 tion of properties within the historic dis-
17 trict; and

18 (ii) mark, improve, restore, and pro-
19 vide interpretation of properties within the
20 historic district.

21 (B) CONTENTS.—A cooperative agreement
22 under subparagraph (A) shall ensure that—

23 (i) the Secretary has a right of access
24 at reasonable times to public portions of

1 the historic district for interpretive and
2 other purposes; and

3 (ii) no change or alteration shall be
4 made in the property except with the
5 agreement of the property owner, the Sec-
6 retary, and any Federal agency that may
7 have regulatory jurisdiction over the prop-
8 erty.

9 (c) CAPITAL PROJECTS.—

10 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall, to the
11 extent funds are available, make grants for capital
12 improvements in the historic district.

13 (2) APPLICATION.—To be eligible for a grant
14 under this subsection, an entity shall submit to the
15 Secretary an application that includes information
16 concerning how the proposed capital project will im-
17 prove the historic district.

18 (3) CONSIDERATIONS.—In making grants
19 under this subsection, the Secretary shall—

20 (A) consider the cost and benefit of the
21 proposed capital project; and

22 (B) give priority to proposed capital
23 projects—

24 (i) providing gateways to, and signage
25 for, the historic district;

- 1 (ii) improving historical monuments in
- 2 the historic district;
- 3 (iii) maintaining public parks and
- 4 spaces in the historic district;
- 5 (iv) establishing a trail in the historic
- 6 district;
- 7 (v) maintaining and improving the
- 8 lake in the historic district;
- 9 (vi) improving the streetscape, includ-
- 10 ing lighting, of the Girard Gateway;
- 11 (vii) improving pedestrian and vehic-
- 12 ular traffic circulation and parking at the
- 13 western end of the Centennial Exhibition
- 14 grounds; or
- 15 (viii) restoring Memorial Hall.

16 (4) MATCHING FUNDS.—To be eligible for a
17 grant under this subsection, the recipient shall pro-
18 vide matching, non-Federal funds in an amount
19 equal to not less than 20 percent of the total
20 amount of the grant.

21 **SEC. 6. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

22 There is authorized to be appropriated to carry out
23 this Act \$45,000,000 for fiscal years 2010 through 2014.
24 Of the amount appropriated pursuant to this section, the

- 1 Secretary shall obligate not more than 12 percent for plan-
- 2 ning and technical assistance.

